

Amendments to the Claims:

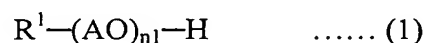
The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An additive for cement comprising the following component (A):

(A) a polycarboxylic acid series esterified copolymer obtained by esterifying a part or whole of carboxylic acid groups of

_____ (a) a polycarboxylic acid series copolymer having a polyoxyalkylene chain with

_____ (b) a derivative of an alcohol having a polyoxyalkylene chain and represented by the following formula (1):



_____ wherein R^1 represents a group of a heterocyclic ring having a nitrogen atom or a group represented by the following formula (2),



_____ ~~wherein R^1 represents a group of a heterocyclic ring having a nitrogen atom or a group represented by the above formula (2),~~ R^2 and R^3 represent hydrocarbon groups having 1 to 6 carbon atom(s), respectively and independently, "AO" represents an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and "n1" represents an average mole number of addition of said oxyalkylene group and is 1 to 8,

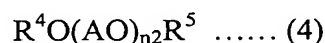
_____ wherein a cement prepared with the additive exhibits a slump peak at a time point of more than 30 minutes after mixing at 30°C.

2. (Currently Amended) The additive for cement of claim 1, wherein the molecular weight of ~~the a polyoxyalkylene-site of said polycarboxylic acid series copolymer compound used as a material for producing the component (A)~~ and the amine value of said component (A) satisfy the following formula (3a):

Molecular weight of ~~polyoxyalkylene-site of polycarboxylic acid series copolymer compound used as a material for producing the component (A)~~ / amine value of component (A) = 15 to 150 (3a).

3. (Currently Amended) The additive for cement of claim 1, wherein said polycarboxylic acid series esterified copolymer of said component (A) comprises a copolymer comprising, as essential monomers,

(a) a polyoxyalkylene ~~derivative compound~~ represented by the following formula (4),



wherein in the formula, R^4 represents an unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, R^5 represents hydrogen atom or a saturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 8 carbon atom(s), "AO" represents an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and "n2" represents an average mole number of addition of said oxyalkylene group and is 10 to 100), and

(b) an unsaturated polyvalent carboxylic acid series compound.

4. (Original) The additive for cement of claim 3, wherein R^5 represents hydrogen atom or a saturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 4 carbon atom(s) and said oxyalkylene group constituting AO comprises an oxyethylene group in a ratio of 50 mole % or more.

5. (Original) The additive for cement of claim 3, wherein said unsaturated polyvalent carboxylic acid series compound comprises a maleic acid series compound.

6. (Currently Amended) An additive composition for cement comprising the additive for cement of claim 1 and the following component (B).

(B) a derivative of an alcohol having polyoxyalkylene and represented by the following formula (1)



wherein R^1 represents a group of a heterocyclic ring having a nitrogen atom or a group represented by the following formula (2).



~~wherein R^1 represents a group of a heterocyclic ring having a nitrogen atom or a group represented by the above formula (2),~~ R^2 and R^3 represent hydrocarbon groups having 1 to 6 carbon atom(s), respectively and independently, "AO" represents an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and "n1" represents an average mole number of addition of said oxyalkylene group and is 1 to 8.

7. (Currently Amended) The additive composition for cement of claim 6, wherein the molecular weight of ~~the a polyoxyalkylene site of said polycarboxylic acid series copolymer compound~~ used as a material for producing the components (A) and the amine value of a mixture of said components (A) and (B) satisfy the following formula (3b):

~~Molecular weight of polyoxyalkylene site of said polycarboxylic acid series copolymer compound~~ used as a material for producing the components (A) / amine value of a mixture of said components (A) and (B) = 15 to 150...... (3b).

8. (Previously Presented) The additive composition for cement of claim 6, further comprising the following component (C):

(C) a polycarboxylic acid series copolymer comprising a polyoxyalkylene chain.

9. (Currently Amended) The additive composition for cement of claim 8, wherein the molecular weight of ~~the a polyoxyalkylene site of said polycarboxylic acid series~~

~~copolymer as a material of said compound used as a material for producing the component~~
(A) and the amine value of a mixture of said components (A), (B) and (C) satisfy the following formula (3c):

Molecular weight of polyoxyalkylene ~~site of said polycarboxylic acid copolymer as a material of said compound used as a material for producing the component (A)/~~ amine value of a mixture of said components (A), (B) and (C) = 15 to 150(3c).

10. (Previously Presented) An additive composition for cement comprising the additive for cement of claim 1 and the following component (C):

(C) a polycarboxylic acid series copolymer comprising a polyoxyalkylene chain

11. (Currently Amended) The additive composition for cement of claim 10, wherein the molecular weight of ~~the a polyoxyalkylene site of said polycarboxylic acid series copolymer as a material of said compound used as a material for producing the component~~ (A) and the amine value of a mixture of said components (A) and (C) satisfy the following formula (3d):

Molecular weight of polyoxyalkylene ~~site of polycarboxylic acid series copolymer as a material of said compound used as a material for producing the component (A)/~~ amine value of a mixture of said components (A) and (C) = 15 to 150(3d).

12. (Previously Presented) The additive of claim 1, wherein "n1" represents an average mole number of addition of said oxyalkylene group and is 6 or lower.

13. (Previously Presented) The additive of claim 12, wherein "n1" represents an average mole number of addition of said oxyalkylene group and is 4 or lower.

14. (New) The additive for cement of claim 2, wherein said polycarboxylic acid series esterified copolymer of said component (A) comprises a copolymer comprising, as essential monomers,

(a) said polyoxyalkylene compound represented by the following formula (4),



wherein in the formula, R^4 represents an unsaturated hydrocarbon group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms, R^5 represents hydrogen atom or a saturated hydrocarbon group having 1 to 8 carbon atom(s), "AO" represents an oxyalkylene group having 2 to 4 carbon atoms, and "n2" represents an average mole number of addition of said oxyalkylene group and is 10 to 100), and

(b) an unsaturated polyvalent carboxylic acid series compound.